MIAMI-DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT NUMBER ONE ON BOB HOPE ROAD, MIAMI, FL 33136-1133 PHONE (305) 545-2400 FAX (305) 545-2418

INVESTIGATION REPORT

M.E. Case #: 89-0346

DATE: FEB/01/1989

TYPE: A

HARRIS, VANESSA (REMAINS, (AKA)

BLACK

FEMALE

SS#:

D.O.B. DEC/22/1966

6322 NW 6TH AVENUE, MIAMI, FLORIDA

PLACE OF DEATH: 1726 N.W. 81ST STREET, MIAMI, FLA.

TIME OF DEATH:

22 YEAR(S)

FOUND

6:30PM

FEB/01/1989

INVESTIGATING AGENCY: MIAMI-DADE

56311-J/AL

INCIDENT LOCATION: 1726 N.W. 81ST STREET, MIAMI, FLA.

ACCORDING TO INITIAL POLICE INVESTIGATION, ON FEBRUARY 1, 1989 A NEIGHBOR HOOD RESIDENT WAS PICKING FRUIT IN A FIELD THAT BELONGED TO HER FRIEND AND DIS COVERED THE BODY OF AN APPARENT FEMALE IN AN ADVANCED STAGE OF DECOMPOSIION IN THE FIELD. THE FIELD IS LOCATED JUST NORTH OF 1726 N.W. 81ST TERRACE WHICH IS AN ABANDONED HOUSE USED BY "CRACK COCAINE" USERS. THERE WAS TRASH IN THE FORM OF CLOTHING, BOTTLES AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS OBSERVED IN THE FIELD. DECEASED WAS WEARING A LIGHT COLORED SHIRT, THE RACE OF THE BODY IS UNCERTAIN AT THIS TIME BECAUSE OF THE DECOMPOSITION.

CAUSE OF DEATH: HOMICIDE BY UNSPECIFIED MEANS.

REFILED:

6/8/89-DJM.

MANNER: HOMICIDE

AUTOPSY

FEB/08/1989

DOCTOR: SAH

MORTUARY: POITIER

INVESTIGATOR: CHRISTMAS, AUDREY B.

METROPOLITAN DADE COUNTY M E D I C A L E X A M I N E R D E P A R T M E N T NUMBER 1 ON BOB HOPE RD MIAMI, FLORIDA 33136 (305) 545-9400 INVESTIGATION REPORT

M.E. CASE NO. 89-0346 A DATE FEB/01/89

HARRIS, VANESSA (REMAINS, UNKNOWN) A.KA. (VANISE)

22 BLACK FEMALE DOB DEC/22/66
6322 NW 6TH AVENUE, MIAMI, FLORIDA

PLACE OF DEATH: 1726 N.W. 81ST STREET, MIAMI, FLA.
TIME OF DEATH: FOUND 6:30PM FEB/01/89

INVESTIGATING AGENCY: METRO #56311-J/ALVAREZ

INCIDENT LOCATION: 1726 N.W. 81ST STREET, MIAMI, FLA.

JAN/00/89 UNK SCENE M.E. STEPHANIE A. HOROWITZ, M.

HISTORY: ADU

ACCORDING TO INITIAL POLICE INVESTIGATION, ON FEBRUARY 1, 1989 A NEIGHBOR HOOD RESIDENT WAS PICKING FRUIT IN A FIELD THAT BELONGED TO HER FRIEND AND DIS COVERED THE BODY OF AN APPARENT FEMALE IN AN ADVANCED STAGE OF DECOMPOSIION IN THE FIELD. THE FIELD IS LOCATED JUST NORTH OF 1726 N.W. 81ST TERRACE WHICH IS AN ABANDONED HOUSE USED BY "CRACK COCAINE" USERS. THERE WAS TRASH IN THE FORM OF CLOTHING, BOTTLES AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS OBSERVED IN THE FIELD. DECEASED WAS WEARING A LIGHT COLORED SHIRT, THE RACE OF THE BODY IS UNCERTAIN AT THIS TIME BECAUSE OF THE DECOMPOSITION.

CAUSE OF DEATH: HOMICIDE BY UNSPECIFIED MEANS.

REFILED: 6/8/89-DJM.

MANNER: HOMICIDE DATE AUTOPSY FEB/08/89 BY STEPHANIE A. HOROWITZ, M.

MORTUARY: POITIER ADU

INVESTIGATION REPORT NOWBER 1 ON BOB HOBE RD WINNI, FLORIDA 33/36 (305) 545-9400 MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT METROPOLITAN DADE COUNTY

DATE FEB/01/89 ₩'E' C∀2E NO' 88-02√9 ₩

6322 NW 6TH AVENUE, MIAMI, FLORIDA DOB DEC\55\66 BTVCK LEWVIE HUBBIS' AUMESSU (REMUTAS, UNKNOWN) A.KA. (VANISE)

6:30PM FEB/01/89 TIME OF DEATH: FOUND FLACE OF DEATH: 1726 N.W. 81ST STREET, MIAMI,FLA.

#29211-1\BUSEZ INAESLIC⊎LINC ∀CENCX: WELKO

SCENE M.E. STEPHANIE A. HOROWITZ, M. 98/10/NAL NMK INCIDENT LOCATION: 1726 N.W. 81ST STREET, MIAMI, FLA.

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AT THIS TIME BECAUSE OF THE DECOMPOSITION. DECEMBED WAS WEARING A LIGHT COLORED SHIRT, THE RACE OF THE BODY IS UNCERTAIN OF CLOTHING, BOTTLES AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS OBSERVED IN THE FIELD. AN ABANDONED HOUSE USED BY "CRACK COCAINE" USERS, THERE WAS TRASH IN THE FORM THE FIELD. THE FIELD IS LOCATED JUST WORTH OF 1726 N.W. 81ST TERRACE WHICH IS HOOD RESIDENT WAS PICKING FRUIT IN A FIELD THAT BELONGED TO HER FRIEND AND DIS ACCORDING TO INITIAL POLICE INVESTIGATION, ON FERRUARY 1, 1989 A NEIGHBOR

CMORE OF DEATH: HOWICIDE BY UNSPECIFIED MEANS.

REFILED: 6/8/89-DJM.

DATE AUTOPSY FEB/08/89 BY STEPHANIE A. HOROWITZ, M. WWWNEK: HOWICIDE

MORTUARY: POITIER

NOWBER 1 ON BOB HOBE RD WIMMI, FLORIDA 33136 (305) 545-9400 MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT METROPOLITAN DADE COUNTY

INVESTICATION REPORT

DATE FEB/01/89 ₩'E' CV2E NO' 88-0249 ₩

6322 NW 6TH AVENUE, MIAMI, FLORIDA DOB DECY22/66 LEWALE RUACK HARRIS, VENISE (REMAINS, UNKNOWN)

LIWE OF DEATH: FOUND 6:30PM FEB/01/89 PLACE OF DEATH: 1726 N.W. 81ST STREET, MIAMI,FLA.

INVESTIGATING AGENCY: METRO #556311-JJACVAREZ

SCENE M.E. STEPHANIE A. HOROWITZ, M. JANU 98/10/VAL INCIDENT LOCATION: 1726 N.W. 81ST STREET, MIAMI, FLA.

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WI THIS TIME BECAUSE OF THE DECOMPOSITION. DECEMBED WAS WEARING A LIGHT COLORED SHIRT, THE RACE OF THE BODY IS UNCERTAIN OF CLOTHING, BOTTLES AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS OBSERVED IN THE FIELD. WM MRMMDOMED HONSE DRED BY "CRACK COCAINE" USERS, THERE WAS TRASH IN THE FORM THE FIELD. THE FIELD IS LOCATED JUST NORTH OF 1726 N.W. 81ST TERRACE WHICH IS CONERED THE BODY OF AN APPARENT FEMALE IN AN ADVANCED STAGE OF DECOMPOSIION IN HOOD BESIDENT WAS PICKING FRUIT IN A FIELD THAT BELONGED TO HER FRIEND AND DIS ACCORDING TO INITIAL POLICE INVESTIGATION, ON FEBRUARY 1, 1989 A NEICHBOR

CAUSE OF DEATH: PENDING FURTHER STUDY.

WWWMEK: NMCFW221E1ED DW1E WN1062X LEEKO8N88 BY STEPHANIE A. HOROWITZ, M.

MORTUARY: POLITER UŒ∀

THE DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT, Miami, Florida
Name...HARRIS, Vanessa a/k/a HARRIS, Vanise......Case No. 89-0346

SCENE OBSERVATIONS

DATE: February 1, 1989

LOCATION: 1726 N.W. 81st Terrace

TIME ARRIVED AT SCENE: 10:10 p.m.

POLICE AGENCY: Metro Dade Police Department

LEAD INVESTIGATOR: Detective Alvarez

INITIAL INFORMATION:

According to police, the owner of an empty lot and a neighbor were picking fruit in the lot when they smelled an odor and observed an extremely decomposed body.

OBSERVATIONS OF SURROUNDINGS:

The night is dry. The empty lot is next to an unused house said to be used as a "crack" house. Brush and small bushes grow over most of the field. At the periphery are small trees including a few citrus trees. Among these trees, next to a fence, at the opposite side from the house and two-thirds of the way between the street and the back of the lot is the body.

Debris, including old clothing, is scattered over most of the field.

OBSERVATIONS OF VICTIM(S):

The remains are skeletonized with adherent dried, brown, leathery skin over the trunk and extremities. The head is towards the fence and the feet towards the house. The body is supine with the legs spread apart. A discolored, short sleeve tee shirt is on the torso, pushed up exposing the chest. Around the right ankle are blue-green and black panties, and a cotton skirt is bunched up between the legs near the feet. A flannel shirt is near the skirt. A pair of blue womens shoes is near the body towards the feet.

Numerous holes are in the leathery skin and, in some areas, roots have grown through the skin and among the bones. The sex cannot be determined externally.

THE DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT, Miami, Florida
Name...HARRIS, Vanessa a/k/a HARRIS, Vanise......Case No. 89-0346

Near the skull are a tooth and a mass of kinky black and gray hair.

SCENE IMPRESSION INCLUDING PROBABLE CAUSE AND MANNER OF DEATH:
Unclassified.

NOTE: The foregoing is of a speculative nature and subject to modification pending additional information and investigation.

Stephenie A. Horowitz, M.D. Associate Medical Examiner

SAH:jl

METROPOLITAN DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

89-346
Police Case No. 563117

	Age Race Sex
Address	Date of Birth
Social Security No Occupation	Employer
Place of Death	
Death Occurred	of
or Found Dead 02-0/ 1989 630 M. by ANNI	E CUNHAUGHAM
Identified by Address	
Date/Time Viewed by Investigator 02-01 19-89 9PM. Medical	Examiner at Scene S. HoloweJ 7
HISTORY: (What happened just prior to death and when was victim last see	en alive?) NEZCHBOR HOOS
RESENT PECKEN FRONT IN FEELD, WA	SCH BELONGS TO HER FLORING,
DISCOVERED Body INFIELD. THE FRELL	▲
N.W. 8,TR, WHOLK IS AN ABANDONED	House USED By CRACK
COCAINE USERS, TRASH INTHE FO	em of Clordade, Borres
AND OTHER MESC. ITEMS, TE OBSER	A
FIELD.	
	Possible manner of death UNCLASS
If Violent Death: Date/Time of Incident19,M. Wea	
Exact Location/Address of Incident 1726 N.W. 813	At work
Exact Location/Address of Incident 1726 N.W. 813 (Specify Street, Parking Lot, Bar etc.) PHYSICAL EXAMINATION: Clothing 136117 Cocoles) SMILET	
(Specify Street, Parking Lot, Bar etc.)	
(Specify Street, Parking Lot, Bar etc.)	SOUTH I NORTH EAST (WEST AXIS, HEAD WEST.
PHYSICAL EXAMINATION: Clothing LIGHT Cocoles) SMIRT Position/Location of Body: SUPINK IN FIELD ON A Lividity: Yes No Consistent Body Heat	SOUTH NORTH NORTH NORTH EAST WEST AX35, HEAD WEST. : Warm: Cool Cold
PHYSICAL EXAMINATION: Clothing LIGHT Cocoles) SMIRET Position/Location of Body: SUPINE IN FIELD ON A Lividity: Yes No Consistent Body Heat Rigor Mortis: None Slight Full Decompositions.	South North North
PHYSICAL EXAMINATION: Clothing LIGHT Cocoles) SMIRT Position/Location of Body: SUPINK IN FIELD ON A Lividity: Yes No Consistent Body Heat	South North North
PHYSICAL EXAMINATION: Clothing LIGHT Cocoles) SHIRT Position/Location of Body: SUPINE IN FIELD ON A Lividity: Yes No Consistent Body Heat Rigor Mortis: None Slight Full Decomposit Trauma: Yes No Describe SETERLY /	South North North North FAST WEST AX3S, HEAD WEST. Warm: Cool Cold tion: None Slight Advanced Com(0) SED, WABCE TO
PHYSICAL EXAMINATION: Clothing LIGHT Cocoles) SHIRT Position/Location of Body: SUPINE IN FIELD ON A Lividity: Yes No Consistent Body Heat Rigor Mortis: None Slight Full Decomposit Trauma: Yes No Describe	South North North North FAST WEST AX3S, HEAD WEST. Warm: Cool Cold tion: None Slight Advanced Com(0) SED, WABCE TO
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PHYSICAL EXAMINATION: Clothing LIGHT Cocoles SHIRT Position/Location of Body: SCITHE ILLY FIELD ON A Lividity: Yes No Consistent Body Heat Rigor Mortis: None Slight Full Decomposit Trauma: Yes No Describe SETERLY SEE NAMES OF DOCTORS/HOSPITALS who attended deceased during life: NAME OF NEXT OF KIN:	South North North North FAST WEST AX3S, HEAD WEST. : Warm: Cool Cold tion: None Slight Advanced Com (SSE) , WAABCE To
PHYSICAL EXAMINATION: Clothing LICIT Cocoles) SHIRT Position/Location of Body: Suffic Ty FIELD on I Lividity: Yes No Consistent Body Heat Rigor Mortis: None Slight Full Decomposit Trauma: Yes No Describe Suffic Nome Describe Suffic Nome Suffic Nome Describe Suffic Nome Suffic Nome Suffic Suffic Nome Suffic Suf	South North North North FAST WEST AX3S, HEAD WEST. Warm: Cool Cold tion: None Slight Advanced Complete SED, WABCE To

DATE $\frac{\sqrt{4/89}}{mo.}$ day yr.

CASE INFORMATION

3:50 PM.

89-346 M.E. Case #

RECYCL CAIL
DEL. ALVAREZ

HARRIS, Venise

DOB: 12/22/64

CKA: 6322 N.W. WHADERUE

SK+#: 321440

J.D by fingerpring

Will be going to Achless to. Notify family members.

Recel collect

NO/K-Mother- has been notitied

Geraldine Harris 779 NW 63 St : #3 Mismi, Fla 758-1527

J. Burns

CASE INFORMATION

DATE $\frac{2/7/89}{\text{mo.}}$ day yr.

10:35 An,

89- 346

Reference: Harris, V.

"Keewed a call from mother, M. Havis 758-1527.

Decensed Visited D.C. Health Week.

screeted latter part 1987.

blade County Jail - Sonsil fam, Thesens on tooth. tooth probably semoved while in Jail

Jul # 547-7003

Anest # 32/440

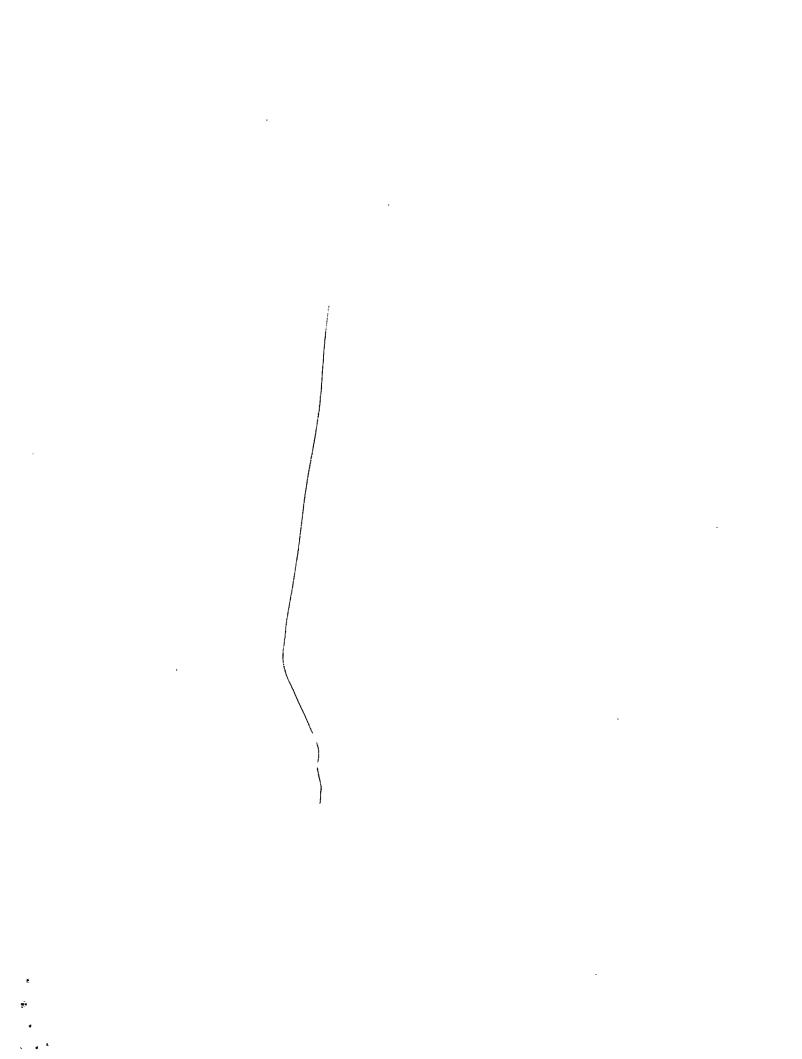
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10:55 A.M called D. C. Garl Clenic

Ms. missick, mary, Ita were check records and 547-7003 return the John Roll ASAP. return the John Rall ASAP.

Received coll, his-missich, NO dental records found . Laked to call mails quie. Dentist's Office - 547-7278, Cash for .

@ Efact



CASE INFORMATION

DATE	2	/3/89	
	mo.	day yr.	

11:45 Am

89-346 M.E. Case #

Reference: Venise Harris

Called Jackson prem

med. Records

12/22/66 -#1285555

Records were requested.

estaylor

Feb. 7, 1989

10:15-Am

called Dr. Briggle, 90E

Asked if teeth on this lase had been charted?

118.01-4 Rev. 5/88 METRO-DADE GSA-MAT MGT

CASE INFORMATION

DATE $\frac{2/2/89}{\text{mo. day yr.}}$

3:50 PM time

9 - 346M.E. Case #

- Dec'd is probably a black female

- Dec'd is probably a black female

- Several missing molar feeth, little of

we dental work or remaining keth.

- Wearing a white T-Shirt, blue Sandala.

- Height approx. 5'3".

S44/

DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT 1050 N.W. 19 St., Miami, FL 33136 (305) 549-7337

CASE INFORMATION

mo. day yr.	time	M.E. Case #
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CASE INFORMATION

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	CASE INFORMATION	
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10.30K	5∕M	

SAH

PROPERTY RECEIPT

DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT Number One on Bob Hope Road Miami, Florida 33136-1133

(305) 545-2400

118.01-27 Rev. 3/87 PRINTING/METRO-DADE/GSA MAT MGT.

M.E. CASE # 81-346

MEDICAL EXAMINER D. HODWITE

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33.02-31 (Rev. 10/86)

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PROPERTY RECEIPT

DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT Number One on Bob Hope Road Miami, Florida 33136-1133

(305) 545-2400

118.01-27 Rev. 3/87 PRINTING/METRO-DADE/GSA-MAT.MGT.

M.E. CASE # 89-346

MEDICAL EXAMINER & HOTOWITZ

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DECEASED'S VALUABLES AND PERSONAL PROPERTY RECORD

NAME OF DECEASED				M.E. CASE	E NO. <u>8</u>	9-346
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AGE	RACE	S	EX	HEIGHT /	7+17+2	29:63:5/3
WEIGHT (with clothes)						
FINGERPRINTED:	YES	_	NOX			
	MALE	CL	OTHES	FEM	ALE	
SHOES	socks _		_ SHOES	STOCKING		SOCKS
JACKET	SWEATER		COAT	SWEATER _		JACKET
TIE	SHIRT		DRESS	BLOUSE _	1	SKIRT
TROUSERS	SHORTS	BELT	SHORTS		SLACKS	nbo1
UNDERSHIRT T	SHIRT UN	DERSHORTS	SLIP PA	ANTIES	CORSET	BRA
PAJAMAS			PAJAMAS		GOWN	
DENTURES: U	L	TRUSS	DENTURES: U.		L.	
MISCELLANEOUS			MISCELLANEOU	s		
	(List al		LUABLES , personal papers & other	r valuables)		
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RECEIVED BY	a ju	MORGI	JE ATTENDANT WI	TNESS		
REMOVED FROM M.E.						
BODY	REPRESEN	TING	DATE			TIME
CLOTHES	REPRESEN	TING	DATE			TIME
VALUABLES	REPRESEN	TING	DATE			TIME

118.01-2 Rev. 9/88 METRO-DADE/GSA-MAT MGT

POITIER FUNERAL HOME

2300 NORTHWEST 62ND STREET MIAMI, FLORIDA 33147 (305) 638-5030 or 638-5031

BERNARD C. POITIER, SR. • ALFONSO M. RICHARDSON FUNERAL DIRECTORS



AUTHORIZATION

I hereby designate the above-named funeral
establishment to take charge of funeral arrangements for: Venise Harris
and I authorize the release and removal of the remains to
said funeral establishment for the purpose of embalming.
I represent that I am the next of kin, or am acting as
an authorized agent for the next of kin.
Signed: Desilone Harres
Relationship: 1710 ther
Co-Signed:
Relationship:
WITNESS: DATE:
7. B. Feb. 4, 1989
FOR VERBAL (TELEPHONE) AUTHORIZATION:
Authorization from
Relationship
Date Time Received by
MA-12-N Peachtree

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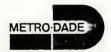
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MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT NUMBER ONE ON BOB HOPE ROAD N.W. 9TH AVENUE AT 18TH STREET MIAMI, FLORIDA 33136-1133 (305) 545-2400

RELEASE OF CASE MATERIALS

	Date	Month	Day Y	ear
			,	
M.E. Case # 89-346	Deceased Name	Venise	Harri	
Autopsy Report				
Slide Duplication / F	Photo			
Pages				
Verification of Death	1			
Glass Micro Slides Micro Slide Case				
IVIICIO Silde Case				
Release to (Receiving Party F	Please Print): NA GENRKE Island			
Address	Geneld		_	
Signature of Rec	ceiving Party	Sehler	_	
Official Receipt #				
Remarks:				
		Release	ed By	District Name

Suspect is linked to 19th slaying

By DONNA GEHRKE Herald Staff Writer 1997 (18) Staff Writer 1997 (18) Staff Writer 1997 (18) Staff Property (18) Staff Property

Charles Henry Williams, already the prime suspect in the slayings of 18 inner-city, women, has been linked to the murder of another: a



20-year-old who, like three

Her body was found the next day in a wooded 'vacant lot' at 'Northwest 13th Place and 38th Street. Williams "was one of the last indi-viduals seen with her alive," said

PLEASE SEE WILLIAMS, 2B

Convicted rapist linked to 19th slaying

asphyxiated in Northwest Dade, lying on her back with her legs spread.

Homicide detectives believe : Williams, a baby-faced former maintenance worker, may be responsible for the 19 slayings - and perhaps more - because the methods of murder are strikingly similar.

We've never had this many that seemed to fall into a pattern, said Dr. Joseph Davis, Dade's medical examiner.

"Williams, 33, has been in the Dade" County. Jail for the past slx months; but has not been charged in any of the murders. He was charged with two counts of rape unrelated to the slayings. Metro and Miami homicide 5 detectives say they don't have enough proof - even though he first murder came under investigation more than a year ago.

Williams has admitted to police that he knew some of the victims (but he has steadfastly denied killing anyone.

The slavings stopped once Williams was jailed in early April on the. rape charges.

The first of the 19 victims - 18 of them black and one Hispanic --was found dead in July 1987.

lackson was victim No. 15. The bodies of four other women were found before Williams was arrested. 'In early April. Miami police did not 'disclose lackson's connection to Williams and the other homicide victlms until detectives recently gave . depositions in court:

Jackson, a former cook in a sand-

Like many of the other 18 vic- depositions.

Just before her murder, she was March by a man known on the desperately trying to break her streets as "Bumper" or "Bump."

crack habit, said Vincent Lawrence,

of them had been badly beaten and strangled, as Jackson was.

On March 26; the body of Angela Williams, 23, was found in an open? field at Northwest 21st Avenue and under control. She couldn't get said a said a manage mysugatons field at Northwest 21st Avenue and under control. She couldn't get said a manage mysugaton field field field from the control of the 46th Street, children found the body of Brenda Hernandez, 24, whose chest and neck were battered like Jackson's.

Williams was picked up near the Hernandez murder site by homicide detectives a day after the body was found:

As in Jackson's case, witnesses saw Williams with Hernandez on the last day of her life.

Jailers later found scratches on Williams' back and fresh bite marks on his penis.

Metro homicide detective Joseph McMahon said Williams readily talked to homicide detectives.

Investigators said Williams told them he had been with some of the victims - but they were alive when ' he left them.

He said people in the neighborhood who say he is the murderer are : picking on him. They didn't like him, 🖫 Williams complained.

wich shop, went by the name Sonia From canvassing Brownsville afbecause she hated her given name; ter the murders, police found at "She was my sweet baby," said her least two women who said they had boyfriend Kirk Stevens, the father survived attacks by Williams. The of her 2-year-old son; also named investigators and the alleged victims described the attacks in recent

tlms, Jackson was a drug addict "do- One, an admitted prostitute, told ing tricks for crack," her family told: McMahon that she had been raped investigators and choked to unconsciousness is

The two women pressed rape counting on the two women pressed rape counting on the charges against Williams. He is the counting on the charges against Williams. He is the counting on the charges against Williams.

ard Landau; believes homicide in- and continue."

McMahon showed her a Polaroid Avestigators are now conducting ge-WILLIAMS, FROM 18 a distant relative who unsuccessful of Williams.

Tony Rodriguez, Mlami homicide gram for her. "I couldn't find any detective."

Like many of the 18 other vice. On March 24; a man working in cers "give a dam about street" to their victims usually through set it ims, Jackson was found nude and his yard found Jackson's strangled applyxiated in Northwest Dade, by body new door in a overgroup by the date in a description.

his yard found Jackson's strangled hookers or prostitutes; McMahon men between the body next door in an overgrown lot said in a deposition. Despite Landau's objections, the in the Brownsville neighborhood. A The second victim said she was Dade state attorney's office recent-brown coat covered her nide body. Taped by Williams in the Brownsville by obtained a court order to take. Her shoes were found nearby. In the next 11 days, four more bodies of women were found. Two before Jackson's body was found. I hams to be before Jackson's body was found. I hams to be before Jackson's body was found. The before Jackson's body was found. I hams to be before Jackson's body was found. The before Jackson's body was found.

her in a choke hold, putting his arm guez wouldn't talk about the genetic around her neck;" Miami homicide, tests. "We're following up every ave detective Frank Castillo said in a dettent enue that's available to us that can position. "She said that he had here assist us in these investigations." he

lot at Northwest 23rd Avenue and neck." in the account of the breakthrough they were

scheduled to go to trial Nov. 13. But able to put together anything of sigscheduled to go to trial Nov. 13/But "able to put together anything of significance," Rodriguez said." It's just for a third time. Prosecutor Dennisi a shame, it's a tragedy. I really feel Siegel is planning to be out of the that somebody out there saw or state that week to attend a seminar? heard something that could help use Meanwhile, police remain closed solve at least one of these cases." The mouthed about the homicide investing the said. They either get arrested williams defense attorney, how they die or they move somewhere ard I and any believes homicide in and continue.

CASE INFORMATION

DATE	•			89-0346
mo.	day	yr.	time",	 M.E. Case #

*.. TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1989

THE MIAMI HERALD

SECTION B

Dead women had links to rapist

By DONNA GEHRKE Herald Staff Writer

Where Charles Henry Williams went, women died,

Four were killed near his family home in Overtown. A fifth was a neighbor. Four more died in a North Dade prostitution zone where the tall baby-laced 32-year-old used to wan-der. Two others were found just outside the area. And two were murdered in a Browns-ville neighborhood where he used to smoke

crack.
Williams tells police it's coincidence.

Williams tells ponce it's coincidence. Homicide detectives think it's a pattern. Police say the convicted rapist is a suspect in these 13 slayings and five others, which date back more than two years. They called a press conference 2½ months ago to announce their suspicion. But they haven't yet charged



Convicted rapist Charles Henry Williams, left, says connections to the dead women are a coincidence. Police see a pattern, but they haven't charged Williams with murder.

Williams with murder.

The killings stopped once Williams was jailed last April on two unrelated rape charg-

es.
"He's the best thing we've got," said Met-ro homicide Sgt. Frank Wesolowski, who

heads his department's investigation into 11 of the deaths. "He is the No. 1 suspect."

In recent weeks, The Herald has found more links to Williams and the deaths. Court records and interviews with police, witnesses and victims' families show:

At least three victims were seen with Williams on the day they died.

Two women who pressed the current rape charges against Williams say he tried to choke them to death in Brownsville — the same neighborhood where two victims died. within the same few weeks.

■ Another woman filed attempted-murder charges against Williams for a choking attack just hours after she had introduced him to one of her friends - who later was found mur-

Williams frequented the same places crack den, a prostitution zone - that several of the victims did.

Williams is scheduled to go to trial next

week on the two rape charges. The trial might

PLEASE SEE WILLIAMS, 3B

DECEASED'S VALUABLES AND PERSONAL PROPERTY RECORD

NAME OF DECEASED				
TIME 1145 p.	m		IVI	1-89 P YR
AGE	RACE	SEX	HEIGHT 17+17	+29=63=5/3
WEIGHT (with clothes)	16	(without clothes)	(with wet clothes)	
FINGERPRINTED:	YES	NOX		
	MALE	CLOTHES	FEMALE	
SHOES	SOCKS	SHOES	STOCKING	SOCKS
JACKET	SWEATER	COAT	SWEATER	JACKET
TIE	SHIRT	DRESS	BLOUSE	SKIRT
TROUSERS	SHORTS BE	LT SHORTS _	SLACK	s
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3 victims were seen with rapist the day they died

WILLIAMS, FROM 1B

be postponed to give Williams' new court-appointed attorney, Howard Landau, a chance to prepare a de-

fense. Landau, who helped win an acquittal for Williams in a 1986 rape trial, won't comment on the case or the homicide investigation. Nor will he allow his client to speak to The Herald.

In statements to police, Williams has denied killing the women,

Born in Georgia, he grew up in a neatly kept Overtown townhouse with his mother, brother and sis-

By 1986, he had been accused of seven rapes - including assaults on two 15-year-old schoolgirls - and was profiled in The Herald as a career criminal who knew how to plea bargain and beat the system.

His accusers describe the same modus operandi: He starts with sweet talk and suddenly turns vicious as he chokes his victims un-

Two years ago when Williams was out of jail, young women started dying mysteriously in his Overtown neighborhood. They were found almost nude, their legs spread and no visible trauma.

Miami cops were puzzled. Initial autopsies turned up a new theory later debunked by Medical Examiner Joe Davis - that the women died because they combined sex and co-



VICTIM: Brenda Hernandez was seen with Williams the day she was strangled.

caine once too often.

They were well-known in the Overtown neighborhood as heavy crack-users.

So was Williams.

"He'd say, T've got money. Let's get drugs," remembered neighbor Audrey Salles.

One of Williams' teen-age neighbors took him up on the offer in April 1988 — and was found dead hours later, said the victim's best friend, Aida Rodriguez, 17.

She said Williams offered her and to Edwards. 16-year-old Sharmanita Grays "some weed" when they went to the Bay Point Motel, 3530 Biscayne Blvd. Later, Rodriguez left herfriend with a heavily perspiring, crack-using Williams who wouldn't let her back into the room.

That's the last time Rodriguez saw Grays alive. Her body was found hours later sprawled, legs apart and nearly nude, on a stairwell I couldn't spring loose," she said. at the motel.

Rodriguez told Miami homicide investigators her suspicions. Miami police have since refused to discuss the case.

Since then, two other victims were seen with Williams on their last day.

In October 1988, Williams sought sex from prostitute Erica Edwards on the night she died near the hooker zone on Northwest 79th Street. said witness Beverly Gunder James.

She said Williams, identifying himself as "Tony," approached her on Oct. 22, 1988, at the Tropicana Bar, 1057 NW 79th St.

"He came out of the bushes." James said in a telephone interview. "He asked me where I was going. and I said to the bar. He asked if I 'dated' [slang for hooking], and I said no. He asked if I smoked cocaine and I said no. He asked me if I knew anyone who did.

"I said yes - Erica."

She said she then introduced him

"I said, 'Erica, this is Tony. He seems like a nice guy. Be nice to him.

The next morning, Edwards' body was discovered in a nearby field. She had been dead for hours.

That same day, James told police, Williams grabbed her from behind and choked her. "He picked me off the ground and put a hook on me and

"The man was on top of me," she added. "I was on my stomach."

A neighbor saw the attack and scared him off, she said.

Five days later — and after three more women had been found dead in the area - James spotted Williams at a friend's house near the hooker

Metro police arrested him there on attempted second-degree murder charges.

He was released in early December after prosecutors dropped the case. They couldn't find lames. She moved to Oklahoma soon after the ssault.

Five months later, Williams was seen with victim Brenda Hernandez on the day she was strangled in an open field in Brownsville, police told her mother, Mercedes Hernandez.

The victim had lived just a few blocks from a crack den near J & J Groceries at 2656 NW 46th St. where Williams hung out.

Two other victims, Barbara Ann

Black and Barbara Lattimore, hung sworn statement. out at the same crack den, several witnesses said. "He liked the girls,"

Williams was arrested at the crack den when he tried to run from detectives investigating Hernandez's murder.

While canvassing the neighborhood for witnesses, detectives ran into a woman who said Williams had raped her in the same neighborhood two weeks earlier.

She said she was initially fooled by his appearance. "A clean-cut guy," she noted.

She agreed to Williams' offer: \$10, two cocaine rocks and half a pound of marijuana for sex. The her and forcing her to have sex.

"The man chokes you like he in-He wants to kill you," she said in a placent.

"The look on the guy's face - it totally changed from that nice perremembered store owner John Ben- sonality, nice gentleman, hardworking gentleman to a damn maniac," she testified.

Metro detectives charged Williams with rape.

Within a week, Miami police followed with another rape charge. A woman from Brownsville accused Williams of choking and raping her in March.

Since early April, Williams has been in jail, lately in solitary.

"He's there for his own protection based on his notoriety," said Dade Jail Lt. Jim Wood.

Williams passes his days watching TV or talking to another prisoner next thing she knew, he was choking Charlie Street, accused killer of two Metro officers.

Williams has impressed Lt. Wood tends to kill you. It's not a choke with his politeness and quiet dewhere he's playing with you at all. meanor. "He seems calm and com-

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DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT

CLASSIFICATION OF PENDING CASE

(THIS FORM IS TO BE USED BY A MEDICAL EXAMINER WHEN A PENDING CASE IS TO BE CLASSIFIED. MAKE CERTAIN THAT THERE IS AN APPROVAL BY EITHER THE CHIEF OR DEPUTY CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER BEFORE COMPLETING THE NECESSARY FORMS AND CERTIFICATES REQUIRED BY THE STATE.)

M.E. Case # 89-34	Name (if known) Venise Harris	
Cause of Death: Homiade	by landetermined means	
Due to:	,	

Due to:

Contributory Cause:

Manner of Death: Hamicide (Item 27a)

How Incident Occurred: (Item 27d)

Rationale for Classification: The Sheli-torruped and purply sound museum speid body of this black female was bound empty in a pellow of speed location (abandoned empty last) with the costung of the lower lardy research with the lep spread. Mithough no acute borny and the lep spread. Mithough no acute borny and that injury is identified the circumstances are such that

Medical Examiner

Medical Examiner

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Approved by African

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	89-906 Williams, A
4	89-997 Hernandez, B
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	87.2017 Taylor, M
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<u> </u>	88-1055 Grms, S
5	88-3075 Edwards 5
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	88- 3575 Bums, A
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	Decomposed or insect aftered hadies including sheleturs
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THE DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT, Miami, Florida

Name.....HARRIS, Vanessa February 28, 1989.....Case No. 89-0346
a/k/a HARRIS, Vanise

CAUSE OF DEATH:

Homicide by Unspecified Means

Stephanie A. Horowitz, M.D Associate Medical Examiner

Date:

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THE DADE COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER DEPARTMENT, Miami, Florida

Name.....HARRIS, Vanessa February 28, 1989.....Case No. 89-0346 a/k/a HARRIS, Vanise

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION:

The human remains consist of a skeleton with adherent dry, brown, leathery to parchment-like skin covering over most of the trunk and extremities. Innumerable irregular holes from minute to several inches expose the bones. Most of the skin is missing from the face, left side of the skull and anterior neck. The skin on the fingers and toes is dried and mummified. Internal organs are not identifiable, with only dry, stringy tissue remaining in the pelvis and chest. The bones have a brownish discolortion and, in many places, plant roots have grown through the skin and around the bones.

INVENTORY OF BONE:

The skeleton is complete except for the thyroid cartilage, hyoid bone and right ribs one, eleven and twelve.

CLOTHING:

2

Clothing consists of a discolored, white, cotton tee shirt which is bunched up in the front exposing the chest. Small holes consistent with insect activity are present.

CHARACTERISTICS OF AGE:

All the bony epiphyses have fused except for the ectocranial portions of the sutures.

Many teeth are missing and those present are slightly worn and carious.

The spine is without osteophytic lipping. The articular surfaces of the bones are smooth.

Examination of the articular surfaces of the ramus pubis reveals ridges consistent with phase II-III of Todd's Ten Typical Phases (The Human Skeleton in Forensic Medicine (Third Printing) Wilton M. Krogman, Charles C. Thomas Published, Springfield, Ill., pp. 94).

SEXUAL CHARACTERISTICS:

The skull has small mastoid bones and a smooth brow ridge. There is a slight occipital protuberance. The pelvis has a wide inlet and rounded sciatic notch. The pubic angle is wide.

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